



Beautiful early spring daffodils blooming in the front garden at the National Weather Service in Johnston, Iowa.

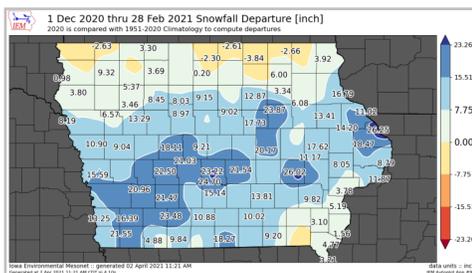
The Weather Whisper

April 2021

2020-2021 Winter Summary In Iowa

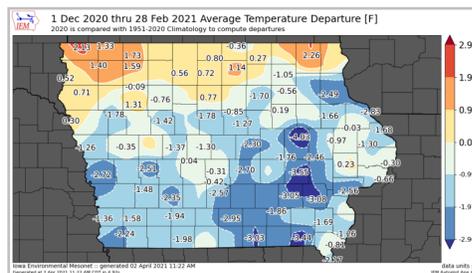
Craig Cogil, Senior Meteorologist

The past winter was a tale of dragged the seasonal average two different seasons with a below normal as well. dramatic shift in weather as we Therefore, even though much of headed into February. the winter saw above normal temperatures, the bitter cold of December and January were temperatures, the bitter cold of both quite mild regarding February was enough to pull temperatures as both months average temperatures below had average readings from 4 to normal for the season. 5 degrees above normal Precipitation was only slightly statewide as colder air remained below normal for the winter bottled up in Canada. season with northern Iowa However, February struck with seeing drier than normal conditions and the south shift led to widespread below remaining slightly above zero temperatures by the middle normal. However, the of the month. The longevity and precipitation that fell did severity of the event was produce plenty of snowfall impressive and is seen only across Iowa with the statewide around every 30 years or so. average 9.4” above normal for The arctic plunge pushed the the season which is the 12th average temperature for the snowiest winter for Iowa out of month of February to over 134 years of records. 11 degrees below normal and



Winter Snowfall Departure from Normal for Iowa from December 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021.

Image courtesy of Iowa Environmental Mesonet.



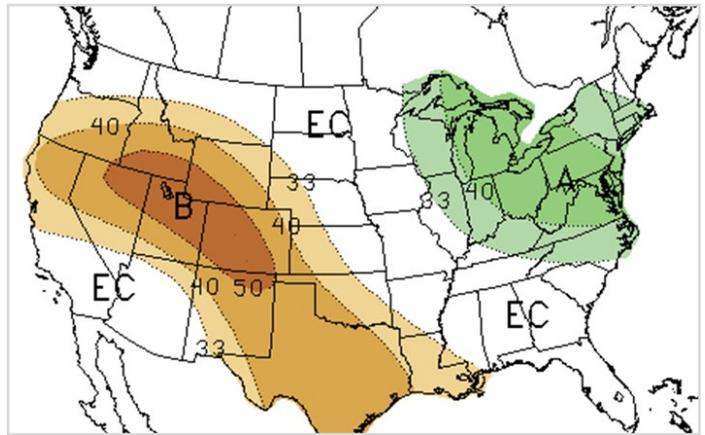
Winter Average Temperature Departure from Normal for Iowa from December 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021.

Image courtesy of Iowa Environmental Mesonet.

Spring Flood Outlook

Jeff Zagg, Senior Hydrologist

Nearly ideal conditions led to an ideal snow melt this spring, which resulted in no flooding in central Iowa. The lack of heavy rainfall on top of the snow melt also led to no flooding. A near normal risk of flooding was anticipated before the snow melt, which is in contrast to the past couple years when there was a higher than normal chance of flooding. Of course, future conditions may lead to flooding in central Iowa. The biggest thing to look for is the rainfall. The areal distribution, frequency and intensity of the rainfall will affect the flooding threat. The current three-month outlook (right) for April, May and June calls for Equal Chances for precipitation across Iowa. That means there is no strong indication of above or below normal precipitation.



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- On April 7, post your photo using #SafePlaceSelfie

weather.gov/SafePlaceSelfie

Virtual Advanced Spotter Training

Monday
April 19th
7:00 PM

Registration & More Information
<https://go.usa.gov/xsBP8>

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
DES MOINES, IA